

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for providing access to a network comprising:

5 a management interface system receiving management data from one or more management systems that provide the management data for the network; and

10 a portal system coupled to the management interface system, the portal system receiving the management data from the one or more management systems and presenting the management data in a predetermined format.

15 2. The system of claim 1 further comprising a workflow system coupled to the portal system, the workflow system receiving the management data from the one or more management systems and providing one or more workflows in response to the management data.

20 3. The system of claim 1 further comprising a client view system coupled to the portal system, the client view system receiving format data and management data and generating client view data.

25 4. The system of claim 1 further comprising a channel format system coupled to the portal system, the channel format system receiving channel format data and using the channel format data to interface with one of the management systems.

5. The system of claim 1 further comprising a user login system coupled to the portal system, the user login system receiving user identification input data and generating management system login data.

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6. The system of claim 1 further comprising a workflow edit system coupled to the portal system, the workflow edit system receiving workflow process data from an operator that defines a workflow.

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7. The system of claim 1 further comprising a workflow execution system coupled to the portal system, the workflow execution system executing predefined workflow process data to perform a workflow.

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8. The system of claim 1 further comprising a client view system coupled to the portal system, the client view system receiving format data and management data and generating client view data.

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9. The system of claim 1 further comprising an element information system coupled to the portal system, the element information system receiving network element data from one or more network elements and providing the network element data to the portal system.

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10. A system for providing external access to a network through a firewall comprising:

one or more network management service systems;

5 a portal system coupled to the network and the one or more network management service systems, the portal system receiving network data and network management service system data and compiling the network data and network management service system data into view data; and

10 a client view system coupled to the portal system, the client view system receiving the view data and generating a graphic user interface to display the view data to a user.

11. The system of claim 10 further comprising a channel format system receiving channel format data and using the channel format data to interface with the one or more network management service systems.

12. The system of claim 10 wherein the portal system further comprises a web server layer that generates \*.HTML data for a component and performs translation of data for the component.

13. The system of claim 10 wherein the client view system further comprises a client layer that provides visual representation data for a component.

14. A method for providing access to a network comprising:

receiving network data from one or more sources;  
assembling the network data into one or more channels; and  
5 presenting the channels to a user.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein receiving network data from one or more sources comprises receiving network data from one or more network management systems.

10 16. The method of claim 14 wherein assembling the network data into one or more channels comprises preventing the operation of one or more of the group including a TOP call command, a hard-coded URL, a hard-coded frame reference, or  
15 rule-based text manipulation of proxied data sources.

17. A method for generating a workflow comprising:  
selecting one or more workflow application data fields for  
a first workflow application;  
creating a workflow process map;  
5 assembling the workflow data fields and the workflow  
process map into a workflow process; and  
storing the workflow process.

18. The method of claim 17 further comprising:  
10 selecting one or more workflow application data fields for  
a second workflow application;  
modifying the workflow process map to include the second  
workflow application data fields;  
assembling the first workflow application data fields, the  
15 second workflow application data fields, and the workflow  
process map into the workflow process; and  
storing the workflow process.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein storing the workflow  
20 process further comprises:  
performing a workflow process test to determine whether  
the workflow generates acceptable results; and  
storing the workflow process if the workflow generates  
acceptable results.

20. The method of claim 17 further comprising:  
associating one or more flags with the workflow process;  
and  
presenting a user with a user-selectable control to allow  
5 the user to execute the workflow when the one or more flags are  
activated.

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